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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/806,613	03/29/2001	Ian Anthony Jones	GJE-5825	3061

7590

04/08/2003

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EXAMINER

ELVE, MARIA ALEXANDRA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1725

DATE MAILED: 04/08/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/806,613

Applicant(s)

Jones et al.

Examiner

M. Alexandra Elve

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/19/03
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-61 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 21-21, 26-27 & 29 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 22-25, 28 & 30-61 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 9 & 10 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Trademarks (PPEK) cannot be used in claims because they can change overtime and hence would render the claim indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 22-25, 28 & 30-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood (WO 98/02294).

Wood discloses a method for applying radiation through one of the members to be joined by welding. The heating relies on inclusions through the thickness of the layers which are responsive to radiation which in turn raises the temperature through the layers and promotes

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bonding. Radiation for heating are in the mid-infrared to near visible region. Some of the materials which are joined are extruded plastics and have PU coatings. One example of an inclusion material is carbon black and others. The welding layers have a high emissivity for the mid infrared wavelength. Wood inclusions which absorb radiation, but not a specific band.

The types of materials chosen are a choice in design and substitutions of known equivalent structures may be made. In re Kuhle 188 USPQ (CCPA 1975) and In re Ruff 118 USPQ 343 (CCPA 1958). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a band versus inclusions because this would be easier from a manufacturing perspective.

4. Claims 22-25, 28 & 30-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Osborne (US Pat. 4,069,080).

Osborne discloses a method of bonding superposed sheets of polymeric material. A CO₂ gas laser is used for welding plastic materials as the energy in the beam generated by the laser has wavelengths which are readily absorbed in the thermoplastic materials such as copolymers of vinyl chloride and vinylidene chloride and so forth. Osborne does not specifically teach a band of radiation absorbing material.

The types of materials chosen are a choice in design and substitutions of known equivalent structures may be made. In re Kuhle 188 USPQ (CCPA 1975) and In re Ruff 118 USPQ 343 (CCPA 1958). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

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invention to use a band versus inclusions because this would be easier from a manufacturing perspective.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 2-21, 26-27 & 29 are allowed.
6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the claims as supported by the specification differs from the prior art in that it does not teach joining using a radiation absorbing dye (outside the visible range) sandwiched between two workpieces.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

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will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See US PTO-892.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Alexandra Elve whose telephone number is (703) 308-0092. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday from 6:30 AM to 3:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Dunn, can be reached on (703) 308-3318.

Any inquiry of general nature to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.


M. ALEXANDRA ELVE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

April 6, 2003.